

**Board of Directors Minutes
M.A. Lightman Bridge Club
November 20, 2010
BOARD MEMBERS**

**Donna Touliatos- Vice President (acting as
President for Don Paterson who has resigned)**

Judy Knox- Secretary

Susan Frazee – Treasurer (absent)

Cecile Skaggs

**Henry Francis
Melody Patterson**

Mike Staunton

Jan Dacus

Larry Alexander

Non Board members present

Mick McGuire, Club Manager

Jack Wynns, Club Director

Janice Van Dyke, Club Member

Kathy Love, Club Member

Barbara Denley, Club Member

Al Stone, Club Member

Donna requested that the Board members come at 10am for an informal meeting to discuss Don's resignation and to discuss the current dissatisfaction among the M.A.L. Club members regarding the game fee increase and regarding the Friday morning game time of 2pm. This was an informal meeting and the Board members discussed all possible ways to handle the current situation. It was decided that we would go ahead and conduct the Board meetings and then hear what the non board members had to say before we decide to vote on the remedy we think is best to deal with the problem.

The regular board meeting of the M.A. Lightman Bridge Club was called to order by Donna Touliatos, Unit 144 Vice President at 11:00 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes previously E-mailed by Judy Knox were approved. From now on, all Board Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the playing area. The minutes will be emailed to Board members and they will be given a specific date to approve or reject the minutes. If no one responds after that date, it will be assumed that the minutes are approved and I will make any necessary corrections and post them to the Bulletin Board in the main playing area.

A discussion was entered into regarding club members who send out mass emails without permission. Larry Alexander will call ACBL and look into the rules regarding this practice. If they have a rule we will follow it. If ACBL does not have a rule about this, we will address it at the next board meeting.

Judy Knox made a motion to move the Friday morning game back to 10:30 effective immediately. It was seconded by Melody Patterson. The motion passed unanimously.

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT

Mick McGuire, club manager, gave the treasurer's report. See copy which is attached. Mick was asked what happened at the parking lot zoning meeting. There was some discussion regarding the parking lot zoning. Mick didn't know how the zoning meeting will affect M.A. Lightman. We own the building and the land it is on. We do not own the parking lot. Mick is putting the suggestion box back out. We will encourage club members to use it whenever they have a problem. It will be in the front hall way. The suggestion box will be opened and the contents will be read and discussed at every board meeting from now on.

Club Members Requested to Speak

Janice Van Dyke – Janice wanted to talk about the fee increase for the M.A. Lightman Bridge Club. She stated that there is no need to increase the game fees to cover any expenses of the NABC. When she was President of District 10, Bill Cook assured her that ACBL would cover all expenses of the NABC in 2012. M.A. Lightman is not required to pay any expenses of the NABC. The unit will be asked to furnish volunteers to work at the partnership, information and registration desks only. She also asked David Birnbaum what Nashville did to raise money when they had the national there several years ago. He stated that ACBL provided so much per table and to make extra money, they went to every club in the unit to increase their game fees to give to the tournament. If it was not used for the tournament, it was returned to the clubs. He stated that he had 4 different budgets and each chairperson was cautioned to stay within that budget. Janice thinks there if there is a club fee increase, it should be put into a fund to be used for M.A. Lightman building repairs or other MAL expense.

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Barbara Denley- Barbara said she thinks the \$1.00 raise is too much. Too many people that play here are on a fixed income. A lot of people are upset that M.A.Lightman is currently fighting just to keep a lot of their games alive. To increase the game fees when all the other open games in Memphis are only \$4.00, would be shooting ourselves in the foot. No other games in Memphis charge that much. This is a 23.5% fee increase in the middle of a recession. There are people in this club that the fee increase will hurt. The convention center will provide free parking and parties for the NABC volunteers.

Mick McGuire stated that he thought the biggest problem here was miscommunication. If the game fees are to be increased, it should be explained to the Members and not done all at once. Donna asked Mick to send a letter to the M.A.L club members explaining what we are going to do.

Al Stone – Al Stone read a letter to the Board Members. The letter stated that the M.A. Lightman club used to be a fun place to play. He stated that other games in the Memphis area are growing and the M.A. Lightman games are losing tables. His letter shows that this is due to the lack of a friendly atmosphere at the club. People are welcomed and the directors are friendly at the other games. The other directors do not tolerate rude players. They are true Zero Tolerance games. They have no problem asking a rude player to leave their games. They don't tolerate other players running their members away with rude and insensitive behavior. Therefore, people enjoy coming to the other games and they have fun. See Al's letter which is attached. Donna asked that Al's letter be sent out to all club members via mass email.






Jack Wynns- Jack stated that we have been trying to get the people who play in his Friday morning game to come to M.A. Lightman for 20 years. They are coming now. He had 14 tables last Friday. He will not go up on the game fee or they will stop coming. He has another chance to bring another game here on Mondays. Jack said he cannot go up on the game fees. He also said that if he had to raise his fees, he would take his games somewhere else.

There was much discussion among all the board members after all the visitors left. We all agreed that it was a very enlightening experience. Henry Francis made a motion that we put all game fees back to the original cost before the motion was made to increase them at the October Board Meeting. Larry Alexander seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. This will take place on Sunday, November 21, 2010. Donna will read all of our motions at the Birthday Bash game today and she will read Al Stone's letter and post it on the bulletin board in the playing area.

First Friday Dinner Fee - Henry Francis made a motion that due to the increase in food costs that the fee for the First Friday Dinner should be increased to \$7.00. All fees will go to the cost of the dinner. The motion was seconded by Cecille Skaggs. It was approved unanimously by the board.

Jan Dacus made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Melody Patterson. The meeting was adjourned by Donna Touliatos. The next board meeting will be December 12, 2010. Marvin Skaggs, our past President will be asked to preside over the meeting until we can elect the new officers.

Important Dates:

-  November 29 – December 5, 2010 Fund raising games for NABC (Participating games charge \$1.00 extra and donate it to the NABC fund)
-  December 11, 2010 Annual Meeting, Christmas dinner and election of Unit Board Members for Unit 144 and M.A. Lightman Bridge Club
-  December 12, 2010 Next Board Meeting for Unit 144 and M.A.Lightman new Board Members.(Election of new officers)
-  December 18, 2010 Meeting of NABC Planning Committee
-  January 7th, 2011 – January 9, 2011 Nate Silverstein Tournament at the Hilton Hotel on 939 Ridgelake Blv.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knox, Secretary
M.A. Lightman Bridge Club